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Climate change, environmental displacement and international law

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Abstract:

This paper addresses the rights of environmentally displaced persons. The motivation is the compelling humanitarian imperative to ensure that those displaced have a minimum of rights, and the focus is on interpretations of existing law that the author considers in line with de Sousa Santos' subaltern cosmopolitanism. The paper draws on both scholarly debates and policy and practitioner discourses. To protect and strengthen the rights of environmentally displaced persons, we should fully exploit existing law by applying a dynamic and context-oriented interpretation of internally displaced person law, refugee law and human rights law. It would be useful to develop a soft law instrument that could provide authoritative guidance in this respect, drawing on the possibilities as well as remedying the limitations of existing law.

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Resource Description

Communication: M

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: M

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Human Conflict/Displacement, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Drought

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: **№**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

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Geographic Location: N

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact: M

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: **☑**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type: M

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Review

Timescale: M

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified